

Hampshire County Council Annual Parish Council Report May 2021

From Cllr Andrew Gibson, Test Valley Central Division

Introduction

This is my last report as I retire next week from my role as the County Councillor for Test Valley Central. Firstly, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors and Parish Clerks who have supported me during the last 12 years. In that time I have allocated a total of £96,000 in Councillor Devolved Grants and I have been able to support many local community groups with grant contributions and to leverage significant sums towards Village Hall construction including Longparish, Over Wallop, Nether Wallop and Kings Somborne.

General

Facts and Figures Hampshire's population is **1,376,300** (2018) the third most populous county in England (85% is rural and 15% urban). Hampshire CC maintains **5400** miles of roads, 4300 miles pavements, 133,000 streetlights, **481** schools, **45** libraries, **3 Discovery Centres and 1 e-library, 16 care homes with 960 beds for older people, 9 residential homes for children and young people, 24 Household Waste Centres and 5 Country Parks.** Every year 94% of all household waste is diverted from landfill (40% recycled) is burnt for energy and powers 50,000 homes. Every day 454,000 people travel to work by car or van, 86,000 bus journeys are made, and 4% journeys are by train. More than half of Hampshire's EU citizens have signed up to the Government's EU settlement scheme.

<p>Public Health -Coronavirus (Covid-19) Hampshire County Council continues to play a significant role supporting vulnerable residents and providing local guidance and information. To date over 32 million people in the UK have received their first dose of vaccine.</p>
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<p>The Hampshire County Council helpline is available for frail or vulnerable residents who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need urgent assistance with essential food or household supplies, collection of medication, or who are at risk of loneliness.</p>

HCC approves £2.1 billion spending on local services in 2021/22

Plans for the next financial year focus on the county's ongoing work associated with the **pandemic, support for vulnerable children and adults, investment in Hampshire's roads and infrastructure to support economic recovery, as well as climate change mitigation.**

The annual council tax charge for a Band D property will be £1,350.45 – an increase of £1.23 per week, equating to 4.99%, of which 3% is for adults' social care – a Government request. The budget includes **£13 million** for the maintenance of 5,500 miles of roads and an extra

£1.2 million in carbon reduction measures across the County Council. **HCC's four-year capital programme of £744 million is one of the largest in the country.**

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/25022021HCCbudgetdecisionFeb2021>

The proposed capital programme includes: • **£68 million** in new and extended school buildings to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire • **£118 million** for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years • **£91 million** for integrated transport schemes including over **£18 million** specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements • **£141 million** for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings and land holdings over the next three years • **£33 million** for decarbonisation schemes covering solar PV, single to double glazing window replacements, transition from oil to gas and the implementation of heating controls.

Climate Change

Hampshire County Council has been taking active steps to ensure Hampshire is resilient to climate change and in mitigating further changes through carbon reduction measures. HCC's own emissions have reduced by more than 43%, with more than a 50% reduction by 2025 and carbon neutrality by 2050. The **2050 Hampshire Commission of Enquiry** placed climate change and the environment as its top priority. In the budget HCC pledged £2m towards climate change measures in addition to the capital schemes outlined above. HCC is aware its greatest leadership and influence will be achieved by working in partnership with the District, City and Parish Councils, businesses and communities via the Expert Forum. At a household level HCC is supporting the county-wide Greening Campaign (aims to find simple solutions around reducing and measuring power consumption, insulating housing stock, reducing water usage, sourcing local food, community travel and renewable energy schemes), the Help line, Solar Buy-in scheme and community energy projects.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/climatechange>

Countryside and Country Parks

As I step down as a County Councillor after 12 eventful years I can reflect that my greatest success was the Country Parks Transformation strategy as the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Recreation & Countryside, which included Overseeing a significant investment in the Country Parks which will now make them self sufficient for many years to come. Please visit the newly constructed Lepe Country Park pavilion to experience one of the many projects

undertaken. Another of my responsibilities was for the HCC Farming estate which includes the following:

Hampshire County Council Farms Policy 2021-2050 Hampshire County Council has a 1,900-hectare farm estate. Holdings range from 1.8 hectares (4.45 acres) to 114 hectares (282 acres). These provide an affordable first step on the farming ladder for aspiring farmers and makes a significant contribution to the rural economy. The new policy for county farms in Hampshire sets out a clear direction for the management of these public assets in the coming decades.

The council's farm estate features a range of units that support dairy, arable, horticultural and livestock businesses. The new framework is published as the agricultural industry faces significant change following the exit from the EU, the Agriculture Act 2020 and Defra's publication of its Path to Sustainable Farming.

Key features of the new policy include:

- Continuing to support new entrants into farming to build sustainable businesses and offer progression opportunities for existing tenants where possible
- Delivering sustainable, high standard, land management and farming systems, to promote animal welfare and soil health, better air and water quality, a network of thriving wildlife habitats and contribute towards the county council's climate change targets. The authority declared a climate emergency in June 2019 and has pledged to bring carbon emissions in Hampshire down to net zero by 2050.
- Maintaining the scale and diversity of the County Farms estate - encouraging innovation and farm diversification where this brings benefits to the tenants and the surrounding rural communities.

Ticks and Lyme Disease

As spring approaches and more people are outdoors Hampshire residents are urged to be 'tick aware' especially when walking in wooded areas or long grass where ticks attach themselves to people or animals as they pass by. Further information is available here:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20210401ticks>

HWRC - Book your Spring Recycling Slot

The HWRC booking system offers more than 50,000 booking slots each week and, from 1 April, sites will be open for longer: 9am – 6pm every day during the summer months.

A wide range of household items can be taken to one of Hampshire's 24 HWRCs for recycling or disposal and information about what can and cannot be deposited can be found online <https://www.hants.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling/recyclingcentres>

Bookings can be made online at www.hants.gov.uk or by telephone **0300 555 1389**.

Cancellations - Anyone who is unable to make their booking for whatever reason is asked to please use the link in the confirmation e-mail to cancel it, so it may be made available to another resident. Bookings can also be amended, in this way, to another time if needed.

Highways

The latest Highways report is attached. Over the next 3 weeks I will attempt to resolve the outstanding drainage and pothole issues.